



Meet the Invasive Species Challenge. Know the NISC Plan, Manage the Problem. **PREPARE, PREVENT, PROTECT.**

NISC NEWSLETTER

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News and Announcements

Federal Register Notice Request for Nominations for the Invasive Species Advisory Committee

The U.S. Department of the Interior, on behalf of the interdepartmental National Invasive Species Council, proposes to appoint new members to the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC). The Secretary of the Interior, acting as administrative lead, is requesting nominations for qualified persons to serve as members of the ISAC.

ISAC includes nonfederal invasive species experts, stakeholders and representatives of state, local and tribal government as well as industry and NGO's. The current terms for 15 members will expire on October 24, 2012, eight of which are term-limited and are not reappointment eligible. The ISAC provides advice and recommendations regarding the prevention and control of invasive species to the Council.

Nominations must be postmarked by June 18, 2012. *To read the entire notice, please go to:* <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-04-19/pdf/2012-9379.pdf>

Federal Register Notice Standards for Living Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters

The Coast Guard is amending its regulations on ballast water management by establishing a standard for the allowable concentration of living organisms in ships' ballast water discharged into waters of the U.S. The [new regulations](#) were published in the March 23rd Federal Register and are effective June 21, 2012.

The final rule establishes a ballast water discharge standard that is protective of the marine environment and consistent with the discharge standard adopted by the International Maritime Organization in 2004. The regulations include requirements for designing, testing, installing and operating ballast water management equipment on board vessels. The implementation schedule is based upon a vessel's construction date and ballast capacity.

The numerical limits set by the discharge standard in this rule are supported by reports from the National Academy of Sciences

and the EPA Science Advisory Board in 2011 as the most stringent that vessels can practicably implement and that the Coast Guard can enforce at this time.

The Coast Guard and EPA continue to work closely on the development of ballast water discharge standards, and to synchronize requirements to the extent feasible and appropriate under their respective statutory mandates.

Special points of interest:

- FR NOTICE REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ISAC
- FR NOTICE BALLAST WATER

In The News

USDA Urges Americans to Prevent Invasive Pests, Protect American Agriculture

April 2, 2012, Washington—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) today announced that it is dedicating the month of April to sharing information about the threat that [invasive plant pests, diseases and harmful weeds](#) pose to America's fruits, vegetables, trees, and other plants—and how the public can help prevent their spread. APHIS works each day to promote U.S. agricultural health and safeguard the nation's agriculture, fishing and forestry industries.

"Invasive pests hit close to home and threaten the things we value," said Rebecca A. Blue, Deputy Under Secretary for USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs. "We need the public's help because these hungry pests can have a huge impact on the items we use in everyday life, from the fabric in our clothing, the food on our table, the lumber used to build our home and the flowers in our garden. During one of the most successful periods in history for U.S. agriculture, it is important that we step-up our efforts to educate Americans about USDA's good work to protect our nation's food, fiber, feed and fuel from invasive pests." *To read the entire article, go to:* <http://www.hungrypests.com/press-room/prevent-invasive-pests.php>

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Growing Risk for Taxpayers and Wildlife National conservation group urges precaution on cultivating invasive plants for bio-energy

Mékeil Mikell, Ph.D., National Wildlife Federation

April 4, 2012: Good biofuel crops can make great invasive species. That's one of the findings of a new report released today by the National Wildlife Federation. Growing Risk: Addressing the Invasive Potential of Bioenergy Feedstocks explores the challenges and policy solutions surrounding the use of non-native and potentially invasive bioenergy crops. Numerous non-native and genetically modified species are already being considered for use as biomass feedstocks. Growing these plants may appear to be a great source of homegrown renewable energy, but without proper precaution, producers run the risk of unleashing the next big invasive species catastrophe that could devastate native ecosystems, deplete scarce water resources and require significant resources to control. *To read the entire article, go to:* <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Wildlife/2012/04-04-12-Growing-Risk-for-Taxpayers-and-Wildlife.aspx>

Plant nursery imports said to be responsible for many destructive pests, diseases

Greenwire

April 16, 2012: Imported nursery stock could pose a threat to the environment as the plants bring invasive species into gardens across the country, a new study underwritten by the Nature Conservancy warns.

In order to block the import of species such as the citrus long-horned beetle, federal officials are considering banning popular plants grown in Europe, including cherry trees, rhododendrons and roses from the Netherlands. But Europe's imports are a fraction of the \$500 billion international plant-exporting business that sends more than 3 billion plants to the United States each year.

According to the study, those imports could account for as much as 70 percent of the most damaging nonnative insects and diseases afflicting U.S. forests today. *To read the entire article, go to:* <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/04/16/8>

Deadly bat disease likely from Europe -- study

Laura Petersen, E&E reporter

April 9, 2012: Evidence is mounting that the deadly disease wiping out North American bats by the millions came from Europe, according to new research published today.

An international team led by researchers at the University of Winnipeg in Manitoba found that infecting North American little brown bats with the *Geomyces destructans* fungus from either

North America or Europe caused the associated disease known as white-nose syndrome. Yet European bats have not faced an epidemic.

"It suggests there is something different about European bats that allows them to survive as opposed to something different about the European fungus," said Craig Willis, a wildlife biologist who oversaw the research project. *To read the entire article, go to:* <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2012/04/09/5>

Tree-destroying beetles continue eastward sweep

Greenwire

April 18, 2012: The emerald ash borer, an invasive beetle that has destroyed millions of ash trees over the past decade, has been discovered east of New York's Hudson River.

The beetle colony was found less than a year after it was established, researchers said. Colonies can sometimes go unnoticed for several years.

Ash trees are used as a commercial hardwood and a feature in urban plantings. *To read the entire article, go to:* <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/04/18/16>

Climate change means more insects up north

Climatewire

April 18, 2012: Canadians should prepare themselves for a buggier future, according to a Laurentian University entomologist. As climate change raises temperatures and shortens winters, insects are expected to thrive in number and diversity. In fact, some are doing so already. The life cycles of insects are highly dependant on temperature, said Laurentian University's Joe Shorthouse. An earlier spring and longer summer mean many common species will have more opportunities to propagate, leading to dramatically larger population sizes.

As a result, a "lengthier season of mosquitoes and black flies is the most likely [future scenario]," he said.

Warmer temperatures also mean an influx of invasive species. Insects like the mountain pine beetle, which has ravaged forests in the United States and British Columbia, and North American termites have historically been shut out of regions like Ontario because of climatic limitations, Shorthouse said. *To read the entire article, go to:* <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2012/04/18/11>



Federal

Lawmakers target travel, operating budgets in wake of Vegas scandal

John McArdle, E&E reporter

April 24, 2012: A flood of legislation is following last week's swarm of hearings on the General Services Administration's high-priced Las Vegas conference scandal. And if the latest proposals are enacted, the operating budgets and travel policies of every federal agency may pay a steep price for GSA's wild conference weekend.

This morning, Rep. Dennis Ross (R-Fla.), who oversees federal workforce issues for the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, introduced legislation that would cut agency travel budgets in half next year and then do it again for fiscal 2015.

Ross' bill would require non-defense and national security agencies to start producing a yearly travel expense report with dates, locations and costs of employee travel. To read the entire article, go to: <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/04/24/1>

Despite outcry, OMB raises cap on contractor salaries

Emily Yehle, E&E reporter

April 24, 2012: The Office of Management and Budget reluctantly raised the cap yesterday on how much the government can pay contractors, sparking renewed calls for cutting salaries that can now reach \$763,000 annually.

In a [notice](#) posted yesterday in the *Federal Register*, OMB's acting administrator for federal procurement policy wrote that the office raised the cap as required by law. But Lesley Field also reiterated the White House's proposal to slash the cap to \$200,000 a year (*E&ENews PM*, Jan. 31).

"This rate of growth in the cap ... has far outpaced the rate of inflation, the rate of growth of private-sector salaries generally, and the rate of growth of Federal salaries -- forcing our taxpayers to reimburse contractors for levels of executive compensation that cannot be justified for Federal contract work," Field wrote. To read the entire article, go to: <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/04/24/8>

Job Opportunities

Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species 2012 Call for Proposals

Proposals Due 15 May 2012

Program Description: The Western Regional Panel (WRP) on Aquatic Nuisance Species requests proposals for coordination of panel activities. This service will help advance the goals of the WRP by ensuring the Panel's business of helping to prevent, monitor and control ANS in Western North America is conducted efficiently and effectively through: annual meeting of panel members, monthly meeting of Executive Committee (ExCom), committee meetings as needed, and reporting to and from the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. More information about the WRP can be found at <http://answest.fws.gov/>.

Conferences

April 24—27, 2012: Weeds Across Borders (WAB) 2012—“Meeting the Challenges of the Future” is being held in Cancun, Mexico. WAB is an international conference covering the interests of professionals and organizations involved in weed management and regulation. For more information, please go to: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wab/2012/index.html> or send an email to: weedsacrossborders2012@gmail.com

Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Weeds Workshop 2012: The U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, California Department of Food and Agriculture, UC Cooperative Extension and the California Invasive Plant Council is hosting and sponsoring this workshop in California during the following dates, times and locations:

Truckee: Wednesday, May 2, 2012; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Participants will gain an understanding of how to incorporate prevention, best management practices and guidelines into work in the construction, aggregate production and maintenance fields. Valuable resource and materials, available at the workshop will assist participants in environmental stewardship planning and saving money by stopping invasive weeds before they move into a new area.

May 1-2, 2012: 2012 AGRICULTURE STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE: PESTS, PATHWAYS, AND PARTNERSHIPS is being held at the APHIS Headquarters in Riverdale, MD. Conference announcements, including registration information, will be sent out through the Stakeholder Registry in mid February. Space is limited so early registration is recommended. For more information please contact Melonie Torillo at (301) 851-2269 (Melonie.J.Torillo@aphis.usda.gov)

May 2-3, 2012: Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) Meeting is being held at the O'Callaghan Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, MD. A block of rooms has been reserved under ANS TASK FORCE for \$116.00 plus tax/night. The block



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will be released on April 1, 2012. Make your reservations by calling O'Callaghan's at (410) 263-7700/toll free: (866) 782-9624.

May 21-25, 2012: Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) Meeting is being held at the Benson Hotel in Portland, OR. Further information will be made available at: <http://invasivespecies.gov/>

May 27-31, 2012: The [Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters](http://www.nfwcc.com/) (OFAH) and its partners are hosting Canada's first National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Congress at the Westin Ottawa. Please go to: <http://www.nfwcc.com/> for more information.

June 19—21, 2012: The Fifth Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Science Symposium (Call for Papers) is being held at the Sheraton Sonoma County in Petaluma, CA. It will provide a scientific update on the state of our knowledge about Phytophthora ramorum and SOD.

August 20—22, 2012: International Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species Conference—TIPS 2012— “Understanding Plant Invasions in a Changing World” will take place at the Delta Waterfront Hotel in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada.

September 9-12, 2012: Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) 102nd Annual Meeting is being held at the Westin Hotel in Hilton Head, SC. Accommodations are available for \$147 plus 11% tax. The rates are available 2 days pre and post conference, if made by August 9, 2012 (www.westinhh.com) Registration information will be available in June at www.fishwildlife.org. The nomination period for AFWA's Annual Award is open now through June 29, 2012.

October 8-11, 2012: 18th Australasian Weeds Conference 2012 is being held at The Sebel and Citigate Albert Park, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Poster abstract submission has been extended until March 30, 2012. Please go to: <http://www.18awc.com/> for more information.

Miscellaneous

Bureau of Reclamation Equipment Inspection and Cleaning Manual (addresses quagga/zebra mussels): See <http://www.usbr.gov/mussels/>, link to manual (13 MB) is on right side under “Documents”.

Archived Grassroots session on Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs), Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) and Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management PRISMs): Many of you were able to participate “live” during the webcast held in Washington D.C. during National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW). The recording of the webcast has been posted at <http://www.nisaw.org/webcast2012.html>